(DAP) in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan. The 8th Plan has, however, not been finalised.

(b) The international prices of DAP as also Phosphoric Acid are subject to fluctuations. Normally, it is not possible to produce DAP indigenously at a competitive price based on imported Phosphoric Acid.

(d) At present, there is no need for a licence for the production of fertilizers including DAP. The Government will, however, encouraged, wherever possible, retrofitting and revamping of existing plants compared to setting up of new plants since this can be achieved at relatively lower capital costs.

Grant of Product—Patents for Drugs

3088. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to grant product-patents for drugs are under consideration;

(b) if so, give details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to frame new set of rules and regulations while granting product-patents of drugs;

(d) whether any progress has since been made;

(e) if so, the details thereof with benefits to accrue therefrom; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTAMOHAN): (a) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fixing the prices of fertilizers

3089. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the prices of fertilizers have been fiexd on international price basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cost of production of fertilizer is less in India than in foreign countries; and

(c) whether there is any scope for reduction in fertilizer prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While the cost of production of fertilisers in some production units are less than the comparable price of imported fertilizers in the feed-stock prices and cost of imported raw materials.

(c) Because of increase in input prices and capital cost of new plants, cost of production of fertilizers has been increasing. However, the question whether there is any scope for reduction in the prices of fertilizers is one of the terms of reference of a recently constituetd Parliamentary Committee.

Amount due under Equalisation Fund Account

3090. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 670 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1991 and state:

(a) what was the amount due under Equalisation Fund Account on 1st January, 1991 and on 1st December, 1991 and what are the names of companies from whom amount was recovered during this period; and

(b) what is the balance amount available under DPEA as on 1st December, 1991 and how much amount has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTAMOHAN: (a) No amount has been received during the period 1.1.1991 to 1.12.1991